

HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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July 6, 2023 - The Hand County Board of County Commissioners held a regular monthly meeting in the commission chambers of the Hand County Courthouse. The meeting began when Chairman Luke Wernsmann called the **Planning and Zoning meeting** to order at 1:00 P.M. with commissioners Greg Palmer, Daniel Jensen, Jim Eschenbaum and Jim Jones present. The meeting was broadcast live via YouTube with a link on the county's Facebook page.

The Planning and Zoning agenda contained a link to the **June building permits** and a plat for the **Grass Lake Grazing Association Addition**. By consensus the plat was advanced to the county commission portion of the meeting.

Zoning Director Jaime Russell suggested that the board **move to holding quarterly meetings** unless there was some action that required action sooner. The quarterly meetings would occur In January, April, July, October each year unless changed by the board. Special meetings would be announced when needed. There was no opposition to Russell's proposal.

It was moved by Jones & Eschenbaum, passed, to adjourn as the Planning & Zoning Commission [1:07 P.M.]

Chairman Wernsmann called the **Board of County Commissioners to order** at 1:07 P.M. with commissioners Palmer, Jensen, Eschenbaum and Jones also present. The consent agenda was reviewed and passed upon motion of Eschenbaum & Jones. The **consent agenda** contained the receipt of the revenue and expenditure budgets through June 30, 2023 and the cash fund balance report through June 30, 2023. Also received was the June payroll ledger report, the Registrar's financial report for May 2023 and the library board's minutes and financial report for May 2023.

The items approved as part of the consent agenda included the approval of claims presented to the board for payment and approval of the minutes from the June 22, 2023 special meeting. The minutes of the June 6, 2023 regular meeting were removed from approval prior to the meeting.

4-H Director Ann Price spoke to the commission and notified them that Achievement Days had been moved from the 1st of August to the 31st of July and ending on August 1. Price also informed the commission that the old kitchen area in one of the Quonset buildings is being removed. Price also said that summer programming and preparations for the state fair are underway.

On behalf of the **Library Board**, Auditor DeBoer presented their request to have **Andrea Fiala re-appointed to the board of trustees**. It was moved by Jones & Eschenbaum, passed by roll call vote, to approve Fiala's appointment. Auditor DeBoer will prepare a certificate of appointment for the chairman to sign.

Sheriff Shane Croeni informed the commission that deputy sheriff **Brandon Fisher** had reached his three-year anniversary. As such, Fisher was allowed to advance on the deputy sheriff pay scale which resulted in a \$1.00 pay increase. The resulting wage will be \$26.44 per hour. The request to advance Fisher was approved upon motion of Jones & Eschenbaum and passed. This is the scale's last step. Croeni also reported that **K9 Ringo** was injured while training in Mitchell. The injury required veterinarian treatment and some time out of service.

Treasurer Kim Fanning revisited the request of American Bank and Trust to change the manner in which county deposits are guaranteed by the bank. The new change would make the deposit subject to the protections of the FDIC instead of investments. The request made by Fanning and ABT was approved upon motion of Jones & Eschenbaum and passed.

The **appointment of Jim Jones and Jim Eschenbaum** to be commissioner representatives on the South Dakota **Coalition of Counties** was formally approved upon motion of Jensen & Palmer and passed by roll-call vote. Commissioner Eschenbaum abstained.

Auditor Doug DeBoer presented the **results of the Opt-Out election for Secondary Roads** to the commission now acting as the canvassing board. The ballot box was opened and the poll book and voter list was reviewed. The ballot box contained one ballot which matched the poll book and the voter registry list of eligible voters. The ballot indicated the one vote was "NO" and the precinct board's tally sheet agreed. The commission, upon motion of Palmer & Jones, voted unanimously to accept the findings of the election staff and signed the canvassing report.

Janitor Will Page informed the board that the **elevator is substantially finished**. The elevator was load tested and is waiting on some finishing touches. Page expects to hear that the elevator can be used by the public very soon. Page also informed the commission that the **boiler inspection and repair** process is underway. Page expected the repairs to cost \$5,000 but was pleased when the invoice indicated only \$2,000.

Auditor Doug DeBoer spoke to the commission about the use of a **capital accumulation fund** to purchase vehicles in all budgets except the Road and Bridge Fund. The Road and Bridge Fund already contains a line item for the purchase of equipment. It is budgeted for \$100,000 annually. It is this budget item that was used to purchase two used semi-trucks from Federal Property. DeBoer suggested that rather than budgeting for a capital accumulation fund, that a line item in the commission or commissioner contingency budget could be funded at \$100,000 and that all of the budgets (excluding Road and Bridge) could enter into a rotation for the purchase of replacement vehicles and larger equipment (mowers, boilers, UTVs and such). The only item in the General Fund that would not fit into the scheme would be a replacement dozer for the rubble site. The suggestion was approved for further exploration upon motion of Jones & Jensen and passed.

DeBoer briefed the commission on the **budget modifications** approved previously and that another hearing should be scheduled to cover cost overruns in the election budget, the defense of Abused or Neglected children budget, and to transfer \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge fund. Additionally, funds need to be moved from the Rural Access Infrastructure Fund to the expenditure budget to cover the costs of structures purchased for the township grants. The commission approved holding a **budget hearing on August 1**. The motion was made by Palmer & Jensen and passed.

DeBoer also spoke about the network security proposals from ConnectingPoint / Ultra Inc.. DeBoer said that he believes purchasing the new backup device is the right direction to start and adding the other courthouse offices to the domain server would allow for uniform backup of important data.

The commissioners took up the discussion of the Secondary Road System which is now, solely, occupied by the congressional township known as Harrison. The previous opt out attempt was \$250,000. Auditor DeBoer had prepared a map of the roadways impacted in the secondary road system. DeBoer had prepared Resolution 2023-14, an Opt-Out Resolution for secondary roads in the amount of \$17,375. The commission held some discussion and had the auditor change the draft resolution to a non-draft version. Once changed, it was moved by Palmer & Jones, passed upon roll-call vote.

The text of the resolution is as follows: **RESOLUTION 2023-14 [-] ATTENTION TAXPAYERS: NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE OF \$17,375 [-] RESOLUTION FOR OPT OUT [-] THE GOVERNING BOARD OF HAND COUNTY** acting as the governing board for the Secondary Road System, comprised of the congressional area of Harrison Township (116-70), do state that the above said board is unable to operate under the tax limitation measure currently in statute. **We therefore OPT OUT of such tax limitation in the amount of \$17,375 starting with calendar year 2023 taxes payable in the calendar year 2034.**